



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERNIE “RICO” BIO



Lieutenant Colonel Ernie Bio, as a representative of U.S. Cyber Command, is the Director of the Cyber Element, Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx). The unit was established by the Secretary of Defense to build relationships between Silicon Valley and the Department of Defense in order to scout for new technology and help bring innovative ideas back to the Pentagon.

Lt Col Bio was commissioned in March 2000 from the Academy of Military Science following completion of his undergraduate degree. He then completed two years of flight and related training that culminated in graduation from the F-16 readiness training unit at Kelly AFB, TX. Lt Col Bio then reported to the Air National Guard's 177<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing where he served as a combat mission ready fighter pilot. Lt Col Bio deployed several times in-support of coalition ground forces during Operation Iraq Freedom (OIF) where he led close air support and non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. Lt Col Bio also deployed in-support of tactical air operations at the Combined Air Operation Center (CAOC). In-addition, LtCol Bio planned and coordinated homeland defense missions as part of the air sovereignty alert mission.

Following transition to a traditional (part-time) Air National Guard status, Lt Col Bio served as an Air Liaison Officer (ALO) for the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, where he was a fixed-wing weapons and tactics expert acting as the primary liaison to the ground commander. In the private sector, Lt Col Bio worked as a senior consultant in Deloitte's strategy & operations practice where he worked with the intelligence community and Fortune 500 companies. Upon leaving consulting, Lt Col Bio joined an early stage technology start-up where he led strategy, business development and operations. Additionally, he co-founded a company that currently owns and operates a national franchise business.

Lt Col Bio earned a Bachelor of Science degree in cell & molecular biology from Loyola University and a Masters of Business Administration from the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University. His professional military education includes Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff College.